## Message Text

## CONFIDENTIAL

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 AID-05 /072 W

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P R 101940Z MAR 77 FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 468 INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO JCTFSUL SAO PAULO 8086

CONFIDENTIAL BRASILIA 1887

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1, 4 TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, BR

SUBJ: RESTRAINT ON PUBLICATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT BY LOCAL PRESS

1. WELL PLACED BRAZILIAN PRESS SOURCES HAVE INFORMED US THAT GOB IS EXERTING PRESSURE AGAINST PUBLICATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT IN LOCAL PAPERS. ONE SUCH SOURCE INDICATED THAT LINE BEING TAKEN BY A "HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL" IS NOT ABSOLUTE PROHIBITION ON RELEASE, BUT "SUGGESTIONS" TO EDITORS AND DIRECTORS ON BASIS OF "THE NATIONAL INTEREST." SOURCE SAID HIS PAPER HAD RESPONDED TO EFFECT THAT IT WILL NOT PUBLISH REPORT UNLESS ANOTHER PAPER, DECIDES TO, IN WHICH CASE HIS WILL FOLLOW SUIT.

2. PUBLIC GOB POSITION, AS EXPRESSED BY PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SPOKESMAN CAMARGO WHEN ASKED ABOUT POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT REACTION TO LOCAL PUBLICATION OF REPORT, IS THAT "THE PRESS IS NOT SUBJECT TOHOENSORSHIP." AS REGARDS RADIO AND TV, CAMARGO EXPLAINED THE OFFICIAL BAN ON COVERAGE OF THE EPISODE, BEYOND THE TEXT OF OFFICIAL GOB DECLARATIONS, AS THE RESULT OF A DESIRE "NOT TO EXCITE THE POPULATION...CONSIDERING THAT THERE IS NO INTEREST IN CONFIDENTIAL

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CREATING A CLIMATE OF HYSTERIA OF EXCITATION."

3. EMBASSY HAS GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT O ESTADO HAS HAD THE ESSENTIAL TEXT OF THE REPORT FOR AT LEAST TWO DAYS. IT IS A FAIR ASSUMPTION THAT JORNAL DO BRASIL IS ALSO IN POSSESSION OF A COPY. FAILURE OF PRESS TO PUBLISH THE REPORT SO FAR

SUGGESTS THAT GOVERNMENT'S ADMONITIONS ARE, FOR THE
MOMENT, HAVING SOME EFFECT.
CRIMMINS

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## Message Attributes

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Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, CENSORSHIP, THE PRESS

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Subject: RESTRAINT ON PUBLICATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT BY LOCAL PRESS

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